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Oliver Johnson,

Tribune Office,

New York City.

April 23, 1872

Ms. A. 1.1 v.8, p.144

Roxbury, April 23, 1872.

Dear Johnson:

It was a real pleasure to me to receive a letter from you to-day, excepting that part of it which describes how seriously ill your dear wife has been, though happily improving, and also how you have been troubled by your chronic asthmatic affection. May the advancing Spring bring healing on its wings to you both! Wife is now writing to Mary Anne, and will tell her how deeply we sympathize in her prostrate condition.

No apology was needed from you on the score of silence, but, rather, one is due from me to you; because — aside from the sickness you have had to deal with — your daily duties at the Tribune office must be so continuous and wearisome as to leave very little time, and less inclination, to write letters of friendship; while I have nothing

of the kind to plead, unless it be bodily lassitude and increasing aversion to the use of pen and ink. [Hence you see my resort to the pencil, which you will excuse.]

You express a hope to see me in New York anniversary week, and also at the Longwood Meeting in June. I hardly feel like attending both, they come so comparatively near together — requiring one to travel over the same course, and doubling it. Which shall I omit, if either? Lucy Stone is extremely anxious to have me preside at our Woman Suffrage meetings at New York, and I have half promised that I would try to do so. Yet I strongly desire to be at Longwood, both for your gratification and my own; for the location has hallowed memories, one after another of those who originated the Meeting is passing on to another sphere of activity, and at our time of life we may not calculate upon many more such blessed reunions as have been granted to us in the past. You know how strong is my attach-

ment to the dear friends at Longwood and its neighborhood; so that, if I should be with you anniversary week, it is more than probable that I may accompany you to L. We must try to get Mrs. Livermore to be with us; for I regard her as the ablest female platform speaker in the land. It is true, some time ago, she seemed to be influenced by the Woodhull construction of the Constitutional Amendments; but I do not think she is disposed to occupy any time in its advocacy, or that she really attaches any importance to it.

Have you any expectation that Francis Abbott, of the Index, will attend? He is certainly an able writer, and very bold and independent in the utterance of his sentiments — though I am not wholly satisfied with his manner of statement or method of reasoning. He is a theological iconoclast of the strongest type; but a little too oracular, I think, and not always discriminating or just. Still, he can never outrun you or me in the matter of free inquiry and free discussion.

MS. A.1.1.8.14

Tilton, I suppose, you will hardly care to invite. I read his paper, from week to week, with mixed feelings — now of approval, then of strong dissent. He seems to me to write without reflection or conscientious exactitude, and to aim at epigrammatic smartness as something more creditable than a strict adherence to truth and justice. His personal attacks upon Gen. Grant have been positively outrageous.

I do not remember to have seen the report of the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Hooker-Woodhull memorial. I shall certainly advise Lucy Stone to print it in the Woman's Journal. You will see by her hodge-podge weekly, that Mrs. Woodhull and her followers are preparing for a great political splurge anniversary week.

It is much to H. W. Beecher's credit that he is avowedly for opening the Public Libraries in your city on Sunday. Will he not catch it, though, from his more evangelical brethren?

Remember me affectionately to Mary Anne. Yours, ever, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.